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SUGGESTIONS TO LEADERS OF CLASSES

The most valuable programs for the work of the present month will be those which will lead the members of the group to survey a large number of Christian lives manifesting different types of Christian experience. People of today do not read Christian biographies. There are few written which are of interest. Yet through no other source can they so easily see and recognize the defects in the type of Christian life which is to be avoided and the characteristics of those which are to be admired and emulated. On account of the lack of readable books containing such biographies it will not be possible to give here a definite program which can be applied in all communities. Much will depend upon the resources of the public library or other libraries to which the group has access.

Perhaps the first meeting could be devoted to a study of the evidences of fellowship with Jesus which can be seen in the lives of: (1) Paul; (2) Savonarola, or some other great religious character; (3) Lincoln, or some other great statesman; (4) a great business man; and (5) a great missionary—Judson or some other. Each of these may be presented by a different member of the group. For the discussion which follows a choice may be made between: (a) Is the Kingdom of God more nearly realized on earth today than at any previous period in the world's history? (b) Are the qualities of life demanded for Jesus' standard for the Kingdom of God practical in the world as now constituted?

The second meeting of the month may be given to stories of hermits and religious devotees of past ages. A second feature may be the presentation of a few hymns from the church hymnbook which suggest the right sort of fellowship with Jesus, and perhaps a few examples of those which are diametrically opposed to them.

Such questions as the following may be discussed: Why is our ideal of Christianity so different from that of the hermits and religious devotees of the past? Would the kind of Christianity which these people had be of use in the world today? Does it exist in the world today? What is the difference between characters such as these and the Christian martyrs? Are there Christian martyrs in the world today?

These questions will suggest many others. Leaders should be guided throughout the work of this month by the interest of the group, and if some other plan for making the work of the club interesting and profitable seems best, it should be adopted without reference to the foregoing suggestions.

Suggestions for Reading

William Newton Clarke: *The Ideal of Jesus*.

Francis G. Peabody: *Jesus Christ and the Christian Character*.

Harry Emerson Fordick: *The Meaning of Faith*.